

Legislative District 23-A
Prince George's County

Health and Government
Operations Committee

Chairman
Public Health and
Long Term Care Subcommittee

Joint Committee on
Children, Youth, and Families

Joint Committee on
Federal Relations

Joint Committee on
Investigation



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May 19, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Vice Chair, Committee on Commerce
Science and Transportation
U.S. Senate
205 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairman Dingell, Representative Barton, Chairman Inouye and Senator Stevens:

I am serving my 16th year as a Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly and I also serve as the President of the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. My colleagues and I encourage you to include Senator Diane Feinstein's amendment restricting the use of six toxic phthalates in children's toys in the reconciled version of the House/Senate Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act.

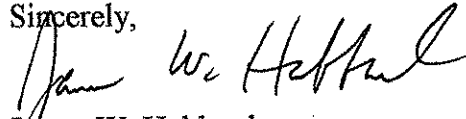
As you are aware, state legislatures in California and Washington have already acted to ban these toxic chemicals in our children's products, and Vermont and Minnesota legislators recently sent similar legislation to their Governors. This year, my colleagues in over a dozen states and I have introduced legislation targeting phthalates. As we continue our efforts to regulate harmful substances found in our children's toys and other products, we urge you to adopt the Feinstein Amendment in the conference committee so that all children can receive the same protection that is afforded to those in only a few states.

We are pleased this amendment contains a "savings clause" that would prevent the federal preemption of state efforts to regulate phthalates more strictly in toys and other product categories. We urge you to safeguard our ability as state legislators to act on emerging scientific evidence and protect the health of our citizens. It is important that states not be preempted from going beyond federal regulations.

As we continue the good work in states all across the country to protect our kids from harmful chemicals, it is reassuring to know that you and your colleagues have taken a leadership role on this issue. Too often, my colleagues serving in state legislatures find it a lonely battlefield when working on this and other environmental health issues. Your leadership is appreciated by my colleagues who share similar concerns for our children's health.

Please preserve the Feinstein Amendment prohibiting the use of phthalates in children's toys and childcare articles and its savings clause when the Conference Committee takes up the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act. You will have our support and gratitude.

Sincerely,



James W. Hubbard
Maryland State Delegate

Beth Kerttula
Alaska House Minority Leader

Andrea Doll
Alaska State Representative

Steve Farley
Arizona State Representative, District 28

Jared Huffman
California State Assemblyman
Chair, Committee on Environmental Safety
and Toxic Materials

Sally Lieber,
Speaker pro Tempore
California State Assembly

Ellen M. Corbett
California State Senator, 10th District

John M. Kefalas
Colorado State Representative, District 52

Diana Urban
Connecticut State Representative

Bob Duff
Connecticut State Senator

Kim Fawcett
Connecticut State Representative

Bryan P. Hurlburt
Connecticut State Representative
53rd District

Ed Meyer
Connecticut State Senator

David McCluskey
Connecticut State Representative
20th District
Assistant Majority Whip

Mary Mushinsky
Connecticut State Representative
85th District

Karla L. Drenner, Ph.D.
Georgia State Representative, District 86

Stephanie Stuckey Benfield
Georgia State Representative, District 85

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Idaho State Representative

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Illinois State Representative

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Illinois State Representative, 25th District

Paul Froehlich
Illinois State Representative

Naomi Jakobsson
Illinois State Representative, 103rd District

Karen May
Illinois State Representative
Chair, Environmental Health Committee

Elaine Nekritz
Illinois State Representative

Harry Osterman
Illinois State Representative, 14th District

Kathy Ryg
Illinois State Representative

Karen Yarbrough,
Illinois State Representative, 7th District

Phil Hoy
Indiana State Representative

Donovan Olson
Iowa State Representative
Chair, Environmental Protection Committee

Janet Petersen
Iowa State Representative

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Maine State Representative

Sharon Treat
Maine State Representative

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Maryland State Senator, 23rd District

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Maryland State Senator

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Maryland State Delegate

Karen Montgomery
Maryland State Delegate

John Olszewski, Jr.
Maryland State Delegate

Jim Marzilli
Massachusetts State Senator
4th Middlesex District

Senator Pam Resor
Massachusetts State Senator
Chair, Environment, Natural Resource &
Agriculture Committee

Glenn S. Anderson
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Ray Basham
Michigan State Senator

Liz Brater
Michigan State Senator, District 18

Kathleen Law
Michigan State Representative, District 23

Mark Meadows
Michigan State Representative, District 69

Ellen Anderson
Minnesota State Senator

D. Scott Dibble
Minnesota State Senator, District 60

Sharon Erickson Ropes
Minnesota State Senator

Mindy Greiling
Minnesota State Representative

Alice Hausman
Minnesota State Representative
District 66B

Dennis Ozment
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Aaron Peterson
Minnesota State Representative
District 20A

Ken Tschumper
Minnesota State Representative
District 31B
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Mississippi State Senator, 46th District

Brandon Jones
Mississippi State Representative
111th District

Jason Holsman
Missouri State Representative, District 45

Jeanette Mott Oxford
Missouri State Representative, 59th District

Sue Dickenson
Montana State Representative

Robin Hamilton
Montana State Representative

Betsy Hands
Montana State Representative, District 99

Dave McAlpin
Montana State Representative

Suzanne Butcher
New Hampshire State Representative

Suzanne Harvey
New Hampshire State Representative

Linda Stender
New Jersey Assemblywoman, District 22

William Colton
New York State Assemblymember
Brooklyn, 47th Assembly District

Steven Englebright
New York State Assemblymember
Setauket, 4th Assembly District

David Koon
New York State Assemblymember
Fairport, 135th Assembly District

Richard L. Brodsky
New York Assemblymember

Rick Glazier
North Carolina State Representative

Pricey Harrison,
North Carolina State Representative

Dale Miller,
Ohio State Senator, 23rd District

Mike Foley, Assistant Minority Whip
Ohio House of Representatives

Bob Hagan
Ohio State Representative

Ben Cannon
Oregon State Representative - District 46

Tobias Read
Oregon State Representative

Babette Josephs
Pennsylvania State Representative

David K. Levdansky
Pennsylvania State Representative, Dist. 39

Rodney Ellis
Texas State Senator, District 13

Jessica Farrar
Texas State Representative, District 148

Virginia Lyons
Vermont State Senator
Chair, Natural Resources & Energy
Committee
Health and Welfare Committee
Lead sponsor of Phthalate bill in VT

Debbie Regala
Washington State Senator

Phil Rockefeller
Washington State Senator

Maralyn Chase
Washington State Representative
32nd Legislative District

Bob Hasegawa
Washington State Representative
11th District

Sam Hunt
Washington State Representative

Jim Moeller
Washington State Representative
49th District

Sharon Nelson
Washington State Representative
34th District